



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany

16 – 23 September 2017

Subject	VHF Managers Handbook Structure and Future Direction		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee	C5	Paper Number	LA17_C5_15
Author	Murray Niman G6JYB		

1. Introduction

The preferred outline for the restructure of the VHF Managers Handbook is proposed in a manner that is more logical and can better support spectrum management, contests/operating flexibility - and the organisational structure of C5 and its Member Societies.

2. Background

The VHF Managers Handbook has long been the master reference for Region-1 VHF/Microwave Managers and Contest Organisers. However, its influence and usage is wider, and its evolution over time has been made it ripe for some form of modernisation / restructuring.

Whilst nominally a set of 'recommendations' it also has pseudo-regulatory status. It is the basis for amateur radio spectrum management, top-level band plans (and their principles), coordination, technical recommendations etc - some of which are used by manufacturers and administrations. Thus, there are many cases where it is referred to by equipment makers, licence conditions, CEPT documents etc. This is not widely appreciated, but it does require careful consideration when making changes.

The Handbook it also contains information for operating procedures and contest organisation/rules that are often referred to more frequently and directly by individual amateurs. For such matter these would be far better off in separate volumes, where they could be more easily managed and the language improved.

It is also obvious that whilst some parts have been modernised, many other sections have older or historic material that does not help clarity. Improving that obviously needs to be a general objective regardless of who the 'users' are, but that will take some time.

3. Key Points and Proposal

Any restructure must take into account that any split must be careful, as there are many places where there are cross-references between sections. The current handbook also has a number of omissions where newer material may be helpful for both new VHF managers and ordinary users

Any restructure must not harm in any way the current areas linked to standards/regulation. Other operating –related items are thus far better off in separate Handbooks, with different titles.

Whilst the overall modernisation of content is a long term ongoing task, our proposal attached is intended to set some important directions so that it can be safely split and modernised. Our proposal has the advantage that the Contest section can be largely independent and if separately managed could save a lot of time for the main C5 committee. (See other RSGB proposal)

4. Recommendation

Proceed to split the VHF Manager Handbook guided by this proposal and the attached annex

Annex - Future Structure for the VHF Handbook(s)

VHF Managers Handbook (New Edition):

All spectrum/technical related recommendations including:

- Spectrum management and band planning principles / definitions (channels, etc.)
- New note that highlights that band plans may vary at a national level, but can also be part of a country regulations to provide guidance on use/changes – and to encourage cross-border coordination (e.g. for repeaters, etc.)
- Band plan tables/footnotes (to be improved in the longer term)
- Associated technical recommendations for band plans and any other formal use (Satellite coordination, ATV, CTCSS stds, Locator system, beacon coordination etc.)
- New section for 'terms for reference' for all C5 Handbooks and Coordinators
- Longer term aim to improve clarity and clutter in band plans by better use of national footnotes etc.

VHF Contesting Handbook

All contesting matters in one dedicated volume, including:

- Coordination and Organisation of VHF/Microwave Contests
- IARU Contest Rules
- Log file formats and submissions (including timing, flowcharts, adjudication etc)
- ATV contests
- Long term aims should include: new C5 Contest coordinator/subcommittee to manage the update of this handbook; clarification and encouragement for new participants and increased activity

VHF Operating Handbook

- General operating procedures (including any emergency provisions)
- New items on data modes, digital voice/media etc.
- Meteor Scatter
- Propagation Research
- Region-1 DX records
- Long term aim for all language to be especially clear for ordinary amateurs

VHF Contact Information and Supplement (Optional)

- Contact information for VHF, Contest, Microwave managers, coordinators, Wiki/email managers, newsletter information etc. - all in one place
- Any other general conference recommendations that are not in the other handbooks
- Any other archived items and change records if we need to preserve any history
- Aim: To up-issue regularly to allow for contact changes, assuming it has no impact on policy